



THE RECOVERY NETWORK FOUNDATION PRESENTS:

UNDER THE INFLUENCE

THE FILM SERIES

CONTACT:
CHEYENNE DUCHESNE
(914) 941-2863, FAX (914) 941-2850
INFO@UNDERTHEINFLUENCETHEFILMSERIES.COM

FEATURES, DOCUMENTARIES AND SHORTS IN WHICH ADDICTION AND RECOVERY PLAY LEADING ROLES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROVOCATIVE FILM SERIES ON ADDICTION OPENS
SEPTEMBER'S NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

SCREENING OF

WHEN A MAN LOVES A WOMAN

TO INITIATE DISCUSSION ON THE RECOVERY FROM ALCOHOLISM

(NEW YORK, August 11, 2006) — *Under the Influence: The Film Series*, an unprecedented touring showcase of feature films and documentaries in which addiction and recovery play leading roles, will kick off the 17th annual National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month in Washington, D.C., on September 6, 2006. *Under the Influence*, presented by The Recovery Network Foundation, aims to advance the national discussion on addiction-recovery and extinguish the stigma surrounding this disease, which has prevented people from getting the help they need. The series promotes the concept that addiction is a disease and it stresses the benefits of treatment, including medication in conjunction with addiction counseling — all of which can help lead to a solid recovery and prevent relapse. *Under the Influence* also embraces the importance of family and reconnection as central to a sustained recovery.

“*Under the Influence* capitalizes on the idea of using film to examine our values and social conditioning with respect to recovery,” said Robyn Leary, president of the Recovery Network Foundation and executive producer of the series. “We are especially pleased to be able to unite key players in the addiction community to put a spotlight on this serious health issue.”

The opening event will feature a screening of *When a Man Loves a Woman* (1994), starring Andy Garcia and Meg Ryan, which was selected for its surprisingly frank exploration of alcohol dependence, recovery and human resilience — and of the trauma this disease inflicts upon families. The September 6th event will take place at Landmark's E-Street Cinema, 555 11th Street NW, Washington, DC. A reception begins at 5:30 p.m., with the film starting at 6:30 p.m. Following the screening, several experts in the addiction community will lead a discussion on how the film portrays alcoholism and how the main characters deal with their difficult road to recovery.

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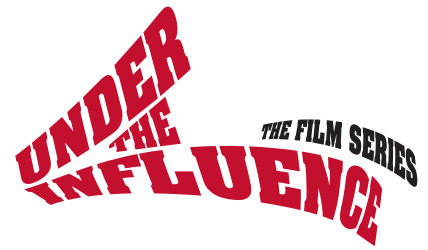
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NEW YORK



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PANEL PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE [invitations have been extended]:

Marvin Seppala, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Hazelden Foundation

Richard Rosenthal, M.D., Chairman, Department of Psychiatry, St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, New York, and Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Laurie O'Connor, a person in recovery from alcohol dependence

Following the opening in the nation's capital, the festival tours Boston, Chicago and Los Angeles in 2006. Post-screening panel discussions will continue to feature filmmakers, recovery advocates, addiction specialists, public policy-makers and other experts focusing on how the films enhance or subvert the precepts and goals of recovery from alcoholism and other drug addiction. *Under the Influence the Film Series* will open in New York in January 2007. For more information visit: www.undetheinfluencethefilmseries.com or recoverynetworkfoundation.org.

OTHER FILMS UNDER CONSIDERATION TO BE SCREENED ARE:

- ***Crash***, Matt Dillon as a 17-year veteran of the LAPD whose actions often cross the line in this, 2005's Oscar-winning Best Picture. Also stars Don Cheadle, Jennifer Esposito and Sandra Bullock.
- ***Walk The Line***, chronicling the life of Johnny Cash, American country singer, his younger life and his romance with June Carter. Starring Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon, who won the 2005 Best Actress Oscar for her performance.
- ***Tree's Lounge***, a "field guide to the alcoholic," replete with descriptions of their appearance, sexual behavior and habitats. Steve Buscemi stars and directs.
- ***A Woman Under the Influence***, perhaps director John Cassavetes' greatest film chronicling one woman's descent into madness and alcoholism. Starring Gena Rowlands (Oscar-nominated for the role) and Peter Falk.
- ***Sideways***, a road movie about two buddies going on a wine-tasting bachelor's last fling in California's wine country. Both men's lives are characterized by chaos, disappointment, alcohol abuse and alcoholism. Starring Paul Giamatti, Thomas Haden-Church and Virginia Madsen.

(MORE)

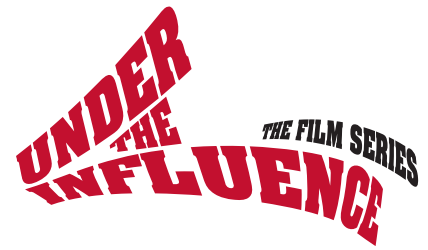
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OTHER FILMS UNDER CONSIDERATION (CONTINUED):

- ☒ ***Thank You For Not Smoking***, about a 90s lobbyist for the besieged tobacco industry. A sparkling reverse-psychology satire written and directed by Jason Reitman. Starring Aaron Eckhart.
- ☒ ***Drugstore Cowboy***, Gus van Sant's gritty landscape of dope-fiend society.
- ☒ ***Bigger Than Life***, Nicholas Ray's neglected masterpiece of a cortisone-addicted character played by James Mason.
- ☒ ***21 Grams***, Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's unsparing depiction of three kinds of addicts.
- ☒ ***Under the Volcano***, John Huston's evocative adaptation of Malcolm Lowry's novel about the last day in the life of an alcoholic diplomat in 1930s Mexico.

ABOUT UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Under the Influence is free and open to the public, in its Washington opening and while on tour. The 2006 film series is co-sponsored by *The Recovery Channel*, a TV production company; the Recovery Network Foundation; Cephalon, Inc., and Alkermes, Inc., which have introduced the medication VIVITROL®.

Margaret Parsons, film curator at the National Gallery of Art, is *Under the Influence's* consulting curator. Special advisers to the series include the pioneer documentary filmmaker Albert Maysles; Catherine Wyler, producer and artistic director of the High Falls Film Festival in Rochester, NY; William L. White, author and noted addiction, treatment and recovery historian; Robin Room, PhD., Professor & Director of the Centre for Social Research on Alcohol & Drugs, Stockholm University; and film specialist Max Alvarez.

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